

than *Urtica* and *Ulmus* spp. It would be very interesting to hear from other readers about this subject now that the elms are dead and dying over such a large part of the country.

### References

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 South, R., 1945. *Butterflies of the British Isles*.  
 Tutt, J. W., 1901-05. *Practical Hints for the Field Lepidopterist*.

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STICTOPERA PERNIGRA LEGRAND: A LITTLE-KNOWN NOCTUID MOTH FROM THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS. — I spent the period November 6th to 14th, 1976 on Mahé, the largest of the Seychelles archipelago, attending the 4th Pan-African Ornithological Congress. We were some 260 delegates all housed in the spacious Mahé Beach Hotel, opened a year previously on the west coast of the island. My bedroom was on the seventh floor overlooking the sea. On the balcony was a fairly bright light which I put on each night at dusk, which fell about 7 p.m. On the 9th, there was quite an attendance of insects among which was a fairly large noctuid with rather narrow forewings and in very fresh condition. It was not until three months later that I showed it to Mr. Alan Hayes at the Natural History Museum. He at once recognised it as the species designated above, of which very few specimens are known with only a single damaged example from the Percy-Sladen Expedition of 1908, a male, in the National collection.

M. Legrand in his large monograph, *Lépidoptères des îles Seychelles et d'Aldabra* (1965) describes this insect as a form of the Madagascan species *Stictoptera antemarginata* Saal-müller, though it seems to have close affinities with the widespread and very variable eastern species *S. cucullioides* Guenée. But *S. pernigra* differs superficially very materially from these other two insects, since its hindwings are very suffused with hardly any hyaline space apparent, whereas the somewhat similar two *Stictoptera* have a very large hyaline space with a very well-defined black border to the hindwings. These points are strong evidence for considering the Seychelles insect as a separate species.

Legrand cites two males taken by the late Sir John Fryer in 1912 on île Félicité, with a further two from Beau Vallon on Mahé in 1959, a single example from Silhouette island, also in 1959, and another from Beau Vallon in 1960 taken by M. Gerber. These seem to be the only other records of this moth with all these recent captures in the Paris Museum. Mr. Hayes has shown me coloured transparencies of two of the Paris examples, which have somewhat different markings on the forewings from my specimen.

Another endemic species I also took at this balcony light, was a perfect female of the large striking pyralid *Cirrhichrista mulleralis* Legrand, with its silvery white forewings blotched with orange markings. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Woking.